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SERIAL NO : NOT YET ASSIGNED ART UNIT : NOT YET ASSIGNED

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FOR : ANALGESIC COMPOSITIONS COMPRISING ANTI-EPILEPTIC COMPOUNDS AND METHODS OF USING SAME

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This amendment is being submitted in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 135(b) to copy into the present application the claims of U.S. Patent 6,187,338 B1, which issued on February 13, 2001.

Please amend the above application as follows:

Add the following new claims, numbered 16 through 34:

--16. (New) A therapeutic composition containing (a) neuropathic pain-alleviating amount of at least one anticonvulsant, (b) an anticonvulsant-potentiating amount of at least one nontoxic antagonist for the NMDA receptor or nontoxic substance that blocks a major intracellular consequence of NMDA receptor activation, and a therapeutically effective amount of at (c) least one analgesic.--

--17. (New) A therapeutic composition comprising (a) a neuropathic pain-alleviating amount of a gabapentin anticonvulsant and (b) an anticonvulsant-potentiating amount of at least one nontoxic antagonist for the NMDA receptor or nontoxic substance that blocks a major intracellular consequence of NMDA receptor activation.--

--18. (New) The therapeutic composition of claim 16 wherein anticonvulsant (a) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of lamotrigine, gabapentin, valproic acid, topiramate, famotodine, Phenobarbital, diphenylhydantoin, phenytoin, mephenytoin, ethotoin, mephobarbital, primidone, carbamazepine, ethosuximide, methsuximide, phensuximide, trimethadione, benzodiazepine, phenacemide, acetazolamide, progabide, clonazepam, divalproex sodium, magnesium sulfate injection, metharbital, paramethadione, phenytoin sodium, valproate sodium, clobazam, sulthiame, dilantin, diphenylan and L-5-hydroxytryptophan.--

--19. (New) A method of alleviating neuropathic pain which comprises administering to a mammal exhibiting neuropathic pain (a) a neuropathic pain-alleviating amount of at least one anticonvulsant, (b) an anticonvulsant-potentiating amount of at least one nontoxic antagonist for the NMDA receptor or nontoxic substance that blocks a major intracellular consequence of NMDA receptor activation, and (c) a therapeutically effective amount of at least one analgesic (c), with (a) being administered prior to, with or following the administration of (b).--

--20. (New) The therapeutic composition of claim 17 wherein nontoxic NMDA receptor blocker (b) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, amantadine, memantine and pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.--

--21. (New) The therapeutic composition of claim 16 wherein analgesic (c) is a non-narcotic analgesic.--

--22. (New) The therapeutic composition of claim 16 wherein anticonvulsant (a) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of lamotrigine, gabapentin, valproic acid, topiramate, famotodine, phenobarbital, diphenylhydantoin, phenytoin, mephenytoin, ethotoin, mephobarbital, primidone, carbamazepine, ethosuximide, methsuximide, phensuximide, trimethadione, benzodiazepine, phenacemide, acetazolamide, progabide, clonazepam, divalproex sodium, magnesium sulfate injection, metharbital, paramethadione, phenytoin sodium, valproate sodium, clobazam, sulthiame, dilantin, diphenylan and L-5-hydroxytryptophan and nontoxic NMDA receptor blocker (b) is dextromethorphan, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.--

--23. (New) A method of alleviating neuropathic pain which comprises administering to a mammal exhibiting neuropathic pain (a) a neuropathic pain-alleviating amount of gabapentin anticonvulsant and (b) an anticonvulsant-potentiating amount of at least one nontoxic antagonist for the NMDA receptor or nontoxic substance that blocks a major intracellular consequence of NMDA receptor activation with (a) being administered prior to, with or following the administration of (b).--

--24. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein anticonvulsant (a) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of lamotrigine, gabapentin, valproic acid, topiramate, famotodine, phenobarbital, diphenylhydantoin, phenytoin, mephenytoin, ethotoin, mephobarbital, primidone, carbamazepine, ethosuximide, methsuximide, phensuximide, trimethadione, benzodiazepine, phenacemide, acetazolamide, progabide, clonazepam, divalproex sodium, magnesium sulfate injection, metharbital, paramethadione, phenytoin sodium, valproate sodium, clobazam, sulthiame, dilantin, diphenylan and L-5-hydroxytryptophan.--

--25. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein nontoxic NMDA receptor blocker (b) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, amantadine, memantine and pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.--

--26. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein (a) and (b) are coadministered as a sustained release dosage form.--

--27. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein anticonvulsant (a) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of lamotrigine, gabapentin, valproic acid, topiramate, famotodine, phenobarbital, diphenylhydantoin, phenytoin, mephenytoin, ethotoin, mephobarbital, primidone, carbamazepine, ethosuximide, methsuximide, phensuximide, trimethadione, benzodiazepine, phenacemide, acetazolamide, progabide, clonazepam, divalproex sodium, magnesium sulfate injection, metharbital, paramethadione, phenytoin sodium, valproate sodium, clobazam, sulthiame, dilantin, diphenylan and L-5-hydroxytryptophan and nontoxic NMDA receptor blocker (b) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, amantadine, memantine and pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and (a) and (b) are coadministered as a single dosage unit.--

--28. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein anticonvulsant (a) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of lamotrigine, gabapentin, valproic acid, topiramate, famotodine, phenobarbital, diphenylhydantoin, phenytoin, mephenytoin, ethotoin, mephobarbital, primidone, carbamazepine, ethosuximide, methsuximide, phensuximide, trimethadione, benzodiazepine, phenacemide, acetazolamide, progabide, clonazepam, divalproex sodium, magnesium sulfate injection, metharbital, paramethadione, phenytoin sodium, valproate sodium, clobazam, sulthiame, dilantin, diphenylan and L-5-hydroxytryptophan and nontoxic NMDA receptor blocker (b) is dextromethorphan, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.--

--29. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein the analgesic is a non-narcotic analgesic.--

--30. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the non-narcotic analgesic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetaminophen, aspirin, diclofenac, diflusinal, etodolac, fenbufen, fenoprofen, flufenisal, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen,

indomethacin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, nabumetone, naproxen, oxaprozin, phenylbutazone, piroxicam, sulindac, tolmetin and zomepirac.--

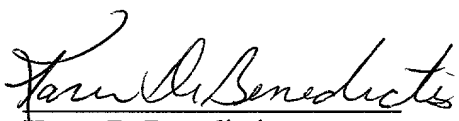
--31. (New) The therapeutic composition of claim 21 wherein the non-narcotic analgesic is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetaminophen, aspirin, diclofenac, diflusinal, etodolac, fenbufen, fenoprofen, flufenisal, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, nabumetone, naproxen, oxaprozin, phenylbutazone, piroxicam, sulindac, tolmetin and zomepirac.--

--32. (New) The therapeutic composition of claim 16 wherein anticonvulsant (a) is gabapentin, nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist (b) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, amantadine, mimantine and pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and (c) is a non-narcotic analgesic.--

--33. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein anticonvulsant (a) is gabapentin, nontoxic NMDA receptor antagonist is at least one member selected from the group consisting of dextromethorphan, dextrorphan, amanatadine, mimantine and pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and (c) is a non-narcotic analgesic.--

--34. (New) The therapeutic composition of claim 17 wherein (a) and (b) each is present in the same or different sustained release carrier.--

Respectfully submitted,



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